

MINUTES

WILLMAR POLICE COMMISSION

Monday, November 17, 2014

A meeting of the Willmar Police Civil Service Commission was held on Monday, November 17, 2014. Members present were: President Dennis Anfinson and Vice President Cassie Akerson. Police Chief Jim Felt and West Central Tribune Reporter Nicole Hovatter were also present.

The meeting was called to order by President Anfinson at 3:46 p.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Akerson, seconded by President Anfinson, to approve the October 9, 2014 minutes as submitted. **Motion carried.**

Chief Felt presented the Commission with information about the current eligibility list, noting that candidate Syvertsen, who the Police Commission recommended for hire at the last meeting, had declined the conditional offer with Willmar PD. Currently we have completed background investigations on two candidates, and are in need of a third for submission to the hiring authority. The next acceptable candidate is currently under the previous cutoff percentage set by the Commission. Chief Felt requested that the Commission consider opening the eligibility list further to allow other deemed acceptable candidates to be considered for backgrounds.

Commissioner Akerson made a motion to open the eligibility list to final scores of 75% or higher, to allow WPD to complete backgrounds on the next candidate(s) and allow recommendation for hire. President Anfinson seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Miscellaneous

Chief Felt informed the Police Commission that Sgt. Craig Lange had sustained an injury to his arm during an arrest on November 16, 2014 and is currently on medical leave. He will have further follow-up within the next week, which will give a better prognosis of his injury and timeframe of leave.

Chief Felt updated the Commission on the Canine Program. He explained that an agreement to purchase a dog and training through Performance Kennels, Inc., from Buffalo, MN had been reached and the purchase and training would coincide with the Kandiyohi County Sheriff's Office. Chief Felt indicated there is a staff meeting on Thursday, November 20th, when supervisors would discuss the idea of having K-5 elementary students from Willmar hold a naming contest for the WPD canine. The commission supported this idea and discussion included seeking info from the canine company for advice about naming the dog (i.e., number of preferred syllables or sounds in the name).

Chief Felt also updated the Commission on the Law Enforcement Explorer's Program that the Willmar Police Department will be implementing in January, 2015. Right now Sgt.

Jahnke is overseeing the implementation, with Detective VanderHagen working on recruitment, and Officer Hay setting up a training curriculum. Several local students have turned in applications and interviews will take place soon.

Chief Felt updated the Police Commission on the Captain's promotional process, explaining that the process is temporarily on hold, pending a ruling from the MN Bureau of Mediation Services, regarding clarification on the City supervisor's bargaining group (which the Captain had typically been a part of).

Chief Felt advised the Police Commission that Officers Liebl and Vazquez were nearing the end of their field training and once completed, would be assigned to a regular shift. Officer Wosmek would transition to the Gang Enforcement Team at that time.

Commissioner Akerson wanted to note her gratitude to the Willmar Police Department for work during the holidays and extra time put in by staff.

President Anfinson noted that staff at Willmar PD had maintained a positive attitude while working short-handed.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by President Anfinson, seconded by Commissioner Akerson. The meeting was adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Jim Felt